

*The* **H** *Magazine for the Christian Home*  
**Hearthstone**

CHRIST DIVINITY SCHOOL  
AND FLEMING LIBRARY



- **Make Friends with Your Library—***Lillian Richter Reynolds*
- **Making Church Membership Meaningful—***Howard G. Hartzell*

**OCTOBER, 1958 — 25c**



# The Magazine for the Christian Home Hearthstone

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### It's a Boy!

You will remember that in the previous issue Sue Wollam, assistant editor of *Hearthstone*, said good-bye. An approaching big event made that her last column.

Little Paul has arrived! His proud mama describes him as "bright pink with dark brown hair."

Paul is a lucky baby indeed. Not every child is fortunate enough to be received with such love into a Christian home.

Sue's column will be missed by her readers. In the editorial offices we shall miss her serenity, her gaiety, and, of course, her solid hard work.

What's here? Do you get yourself all dressed to visit a shut-in only to find yourself asking some rather desperate questions? "What can I take to him? I've forgotten if egg custard is forbidden by his diet," or, "Why didn't I find out how his old crony's arthritis is? He'll surely ask." Loie Brandom, in "To Brighten the Life of a Shut-In," tells how to give your memory a boost. May all your visits be thoughtful ones.

No doubt you are pleased whenever you see a generous response on the part of your youngster. However, he may be unaware of your approval if you appear indifferent to the need which has prompted him to give. To inform yourself about the appeals presented to your children is the wisest course. "Your Children's Giving," by Mabel Niedermeyer McCaw, tells about three giving projects which frequently are undertaken by church schools, scouts, and other groups.

It's a memorable day when one of your offspring makes his confession of faith. You may have prayed silently that the step your child had taken would continue to increase in its importance for him. "Lord, help me to guide him," you thought. Howard G. Hartzell believes that there are ways the family can make being a part of the church grow in significance. "Making Church Membership Meaningful at Home" is an excellent article.

Most of us have some magazines which we consider old friends. They talk about the subjects which interest us. Books can be friends, too; they are not all formidable tomes for scholarly study. If yours is only a speaking acquaintance with the public library, you will be glad to read, "Make Friends with Your Library" by Lillian Richter Reynolds.

What's Next? "When Johnny's Teacher Says You're Wrong"; "Questions About Planning for Retirement"; "What About Three-Generation Households?"—D. S.



# YOUR CHILDREN'S GIVING

by Mabel Niedermeyer McCaw

Do you suppose that it was his contact with boys and girls during a time of sharing that prompted Jesus to say, "It is more blessed to give than to receive"? To see the radiance of their faces and hear the joy in their voices as children make response to another's need is certain proof of this fact. Unless hindered by an adult, a child's willingness to give is so genuine and unselfish that it is not uncommon for one to empty his bank for an offering to be spent to bring relief and joy to others. Often, the inability to share more freely than he is able will bring real disappointment to him. True, some children's giving may be done impulsively under the stress of emotion caused by the plight of another. At such times it may be necessary to help a child understand the meaning of his generosity and that his gift, once given, cannot be reclaimed. For the most part, parental guidance, *not restraint*, is all that is required when children wish to share either money or material gifts in some worthy cause.

In addition to the ongoing support of the missionary program of their church and occasional community or area needs, a number of interdenominational giving projects for children have been given birth by the needy conditions of the world. "Stories of Jesus for Children Everywhere" is one of these. It is sponsored by the Children's Committee of the Commission on Christian Education of the National Council of Churches, and is being promoted in church schools, vacation church schools, and weekday religious education classes. It presents a way in which boys and girls can send a sixteen-page booklet of pictures and stories of Jesus to children around the world. The eight colored pictures and their stories tell of familiar events in the life of Jesus beginning with his birth in Bethlehem and closing with his final meeting with his chosen helpers when he gave the Great Commission to "go . . . preach . . . baptize . . . teach." The stories, of course, are printed in the language of the country to which they are to be sent; and any participating group may designate who the recipients of their gift should be. A gift of \$1.00 buys a dozen booklets, while individual booklets cost ten cents each.

This project has been carried on for almost five years. As of October 15, 1956, boys and girls and their leaders in the United States had given \$81,808.50 to send 992,643 booklets to 110 different countries. How eagerly they have been received and used! Many are the reports which have been received of the joy and enthusiasm of those who have been among its recipients. A note of thanks from a supervisor of village education in West Pakistan is typical. "The booklets are wonderful," he wrote, "simple and helpful. The pictures are so fine. Our children here see few such pictures and booklets. They will be cherished possessions all the rest of their lives, helping them to be better Christians. I send the loving thanks of all of them."

In spite of the excellent response, the need for these booklets has not yet been met. Only a limited supply could be sent to any one church or school, making it impossible for every member of the group to have a copy. Many requests from those who could buy the material have had to be denied. In some cases the pages were torn apart and the pictures mounted so that they might be distributed to a greater number of individuals. Perhaps your child has had a share in the distribution to date, or, as the project is continued, he will be given that opportunity through some group of your church in which he participates.

The American Friends Service Committee is another avenue through which our children have shared with friends across the sea. Many boys and girls have responded to the call made through our churches or some other organization for warm clothing, shoes, school supplies, stuffed toys, and other articles of usefulness and need. Perhaps the most popular project for children sponsored by this agency has been the Christmas mitten tree, through which children have bought and decorated a Christmas tree with gayly colored wool mittens to be sent to friends in other lands. In order that the mittens might reach the receivers in time for winter use, some vacation church schools and community playground groups have decorated their trees in the summer months. Scouts,





Photo by U. S. Committee for UNICEF

"A penny for UNICEF, please. It will buy five big glasses of milk."

Who could resist this little band setting out to help "all the world's children" through UNICEF?

Photo by U. S. Committee for UNICEF



*Whenever your youngster is asked to share with the world's needy children through a special*

Camp Fire Girls, and 4-H Clubs also have participated in this and other projects sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. A report of gifts received from October 1, 1957 through January 31, 1958, included 25,665 pairs or 1,285 pounds of mittens. Some of the children who sent mittens have received word from the new friend that they made through their gift. Walter from Germany wrote to the child whose name he found in his mittens: "I do not know you. But you have sent me a pair of mittens. I want to thank you very much. Mine were all torn. Now I won't be cold on my way to school."

Because this Christmas tree project has been such a favorite, the committee is now suggesting additional types of trees which are variations of this idea. "A baby tree," "a pencil tree," "a school supply tree," "a handkerchief tree," "a sock tree," "a toy tree," "a friendship tree" are among those being promoted. Baby garments, new or clean and in good condition, will decorate the "baby tree"; new unsharpened pencils tied with a short piece of bright ribbon and hung from the branches of a tree will make the "pencil tree."

The "friendship tree" may be decorated with a combination of the articles mentioned, each child choosing what his particular gift will be.

Another sharing activity for boys and girls which has gained popularity since its inception in 1952 is "The Trick Is to Treat" idea promoted by UNICEF, which turns Halloween into a day of *sharing* instead of *scaring*. This is a program in which Sunday church school classes or departments, neighborhood groups, Boy Scout troops, and other bodies of children go from house to house on Halloween, not to collect treats for themselves but rather to collect money gifts which will be used to help the needy children of the world. The children's response to this appeal has been most remarkable. May we quote from a letter concerning the 1957 returns which was written by Miss Phyllis Kotite, program assistant of UNICEF:

You will be pleased to know that in 1957 over two million American youngsters in 8500 communities throughout the nation participated in



*giving project your family has a wonderful opportunity to learn and pray together.*

the Halloween program for UNICEF. They contributed over one million dollars to the Children's Fund which will help to purchase medicine and food for some of the world's 600,000,000 sick and hungry children. The most important aspect of this encouraging participation is its educational impact on American youngsters—ambassadors of good will.

Notes of appreciation also are received from time to time from the recipients of UNICEF assistance. One such message came from a little boy in the Philippines who had received some much-needed milk. "I am ignorant to write," he scrawled on a piece of paper, "but my heart is thanking."

These are only samples of the sharing projects in which your boys and girls are engaged today. What can parents do about these excursions in the land of love and good will? Displaying an interest in the proposed venture is the first thing that you can do. Then with your children try to find out as much about the project as you can. Who is sponsoring the program? What is its purpose? What conditions called it into being? How is it organized? What type of gifts are desired? How will they reach their recipients? With this information in mind, talk over with your boy or girl the part that he will play in the program and ways in which he can acquire the gift of money or material that he will contribute. Encourage him to use his own money for the project. If he has no money of his own, from his allowance or money earned for unusual tasks about the home, perhaps you can arrange ways in which he can earn some to give. Or it may become a family sharing project, and you might plan to do without dessert for a time or deny yourself in some other way until you have saved the desired amount. You also can remember those who will receive your gift in your family devotions. If you know where the gift will go, you might try to find information and pictures about the people of that land and study them together. Above all, manifest your own joy in your giving; and each venture will lead to another, all making their contribution toward the establishment of peace and brotherhood around the world.



This outdoor class enjoys rereading their stories about Jesus.

Mittens are a very personal gift. Why not send some home-knitted ones?





# MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR LIBRARY

*This article will help you find books at the public library on the topics which interest you most.*

A favored only daughter was showing her many books to a playmate who was blessed with fewer volumes than she. As she commented on the books that she owned, the playmate said, "I have lots more books than these." This brought about a hot denial; but the little boy countered with, "Yes, I do. I keep most of them in a big building downtown."

So do we all. Our public libraries, whether large or small, are ours to use for the enrichment of ourselves and our families. Yet in a land blessed with libraries we tend to use them in only a limited fashion. According to a new report by UNESCO the United States is surprisingly low on the number of books read, ranking behind Britain, West Germany, France, and Japan!

Perhaps this situation exists because of our faulty thinking about

the purpose of a library. To some people it seems a necessity for a scholar, but hardly a need for day-to-day living. Though few of our communities are without library service of some kind, the treasures housed in library buildings or bookmobiles are largely by-passed.

The American housewife seems to be a good example of the need to change our thinking about the function of a library. To the question, "Do you use your public library?" several housewives answered with these comments: "No, I haven't time to read intellectual books." "I gave up studying when I quit school." "We buy the books we want." "When the children are a little older, I will."

These answers all indicate that a library often is thought of as a place for study or as a collection of "good" books rather removed from the daily life of an ordinary

homemaker.

Other women who were asked about their use of the library replied that they used it for their children. Most of us who do use a library at all go to it for additional books for our children. Nobody could argue about the wisdom of this. Children approach a new book with a sense of adventure; and the many inexpensive editions of good children's books and their large volume of sales lead us to believe that our children have not wholly substituted television, radio, or movies for reading. Even in inexpensive editions, however, few families can afford to buy for their children all the good books that they might enjoy. To supplement what they can purchase families are increasingly turning to the public libraries. Even a very small library usually has a large number of beau-



by Lillian Richter Reynolds

*Photo by Luoma*

Many children grow up feeling that some of their most prized possessions are on the shelves of the public library. No idea is beyond their reach, since all knowledge is waiting in books.

tiful children's books. In these families the library is "where we keep most of our books."

Libraries are not solely, or even primarily, for children. American homemakers, who buy and read magazines because they find them helpful, need to discover the practical uses of a library. My own liking for a library undoubtedly stems from my not ever having gotten over the feeling of adventure that children exhibit on entering a library. One of the great events of my life was becoming a member of the library in our city. I remember the day very well. It was the Saturday following my seventh birthday, seven being the minimum age required for a book borrower. I signed my card with the same flourish that I might have used if I had been purchasing Fort Knox. I have forgotten the books that I selected that day, but I shall





never forget the richness of having a library at my disposal.

In spite of these wonderful early feelings, however, it was as an adult that I really discovered the library. I consider reading to be fun. I do not often read because I should, but almost always because I want to. I like to read some of the classics. I read the new books about world happenings that interest me. I pick over the current novels, and I usually go through all the detective stories in a systematic and thorough way. Without a community library I could not possibly have so much reading pleasure as I do. A few minutes spent with a book can be a relaxing and refreshing experience for most busy homemakers. A bedridden invalid once said to a friend who was offering sympathy for the dullness of her life, "My life is not dull. It is as interesting as my newest book."

Though reading should be fun, it can be more than that. My lifelong faith that almost anything worth knowing can be found in a book has led me away from the novels to less well-known territory for some interesting explorations. I've found cookbook volumes and books on nutrition. Once when I faced the need to feed a convalescent, I found a book that helped me learn what foods are good for sick people. When the food section began to be familiar territory, I moved over into the housekeeping section of our library. Maybe anybody should know how to keep a house clean, but approaching it with something of a scientific attitude has taken housework out of the drudgery class and has made it an interesting occupation for me. I read through several volumes and then bought the one that I found most helpful, so I could have it handy for ready reference.

When we were expecting our first baby, I went on a spree of library reading. A friend who was having a second baby refused to

go with me to check out books on what was happening inside us. "I would feel silly," was her comment. "Grown women ought not to have to read books on how to have a baby." Maybe not, but some of us never get around to wondering too much about the prenatal development of a baby until we begin to have a first-hand experience with it. So I checked out the books, and my friend read them at my house.

As our daughter grew, I found more books that were helpful in understanding her needs at each age level. I found books that listed toys good for each age! Books that I might read to her for her enjoyment during her early years! Phonograph records that she might begin to appreciate! These things were helpful to me.

I know people laugh about books on child development, and many have said to me, "You can't raise a baby by a book." Others always remark that the books said thus and so, but their Johnny did such and such. How strange it is that the books in the library agree with these people! None of the books that I have ever read said one could rear a baby by a book, and none ever said that all babies would do any given thing at any given date. All the good baby books that my library owns have helped me cultivate the point of view that my children are individuals and must be treated as such.

Not all use of the library has to be so intellectual. There are such things as game books, books that help plan parties or that give ideas for keeping children busy and happy during illness. Once I even read a book on how to play chess. It left me something less than an expert, but, who knows? Perhaps if I read four or five more books, I may begin to get the hang of it.

The library has come in handy with some minor family crises, too. When our seven-year-old suddenly

discovered the stars and moon, I found my knowledge of astronomy practically nonexistent. The library had a good book, written in the most elemental fashion, which both she and I could understand. The books on animals and life on a farm, while invaluable for the enrichment that they offered our city-bred children, were about to create some feelings that we were underprivileged because we owned no farm. A good library book on the magic of the city helped considerably to show us the advantages of both kinds of living. Books on Bible stories and short, suitable Bible readings have helped us with worship times in our home. The library can become like a trusted and versatile friend who might have a bit of advice to offer on the need of the moment.

We think, too, that there is an added value for the children in using library books. Of course, they have books of their own, and we would not overlook the value of adding to their personal libraries; but I am glad that they use library books, too. They have learned that these books are different from their own because when we finish with them, we take them back and other boys or girls are able to enjoy them. This sense of joint ownership seems to us to be a good thing, for we are teaching good citizenship as we read.

We laugh at the man who didn't want to buy a book because he already had one, but we are like that when we use our libraries in a too limited fashion. The women of our country who have learned to take their housekeeping responsibilities seriously and to tackle them with efficiency and with a spirit of creativity need to discover the help to be found in books—many books—many more than most of us will ever own. Every family should make friends with the library and use it for fun and for learning and for finding answers to some of life's interesting questions.



The kitchen door burst open and in roared Reg and Bill. Reg flipped his hat onto a chair and catching Alison by the arms, spun her wildly about the room.



# The Heart Decides

by Beatrice J. Latimer

Alison Kirby's eyes swept the kitchen clock as she heard her husband's car come up the driveway. Reg was early, and he seemed to be in a big hurry, but no more so than her son Bill, aged six, who charged down the stairs from the flat above, slammed the door behind him, and raced out to meet his father.

Alison smiled. Life was surely good. How happy she had been these seven years married to Reg! He was a wonderful person, easy-going, considerate. And there was Bill to complete her happiness. And her parents. They all lived under one roof, her father's

home. At the time of her marriage her parents had had the house remodeled, so that they had a comfortable flat upstairs, and Reg and she, a self-contained apartment on the ground floor.

The arrangement had worked beautifully. At the beginning of her pregnancy, she had been very ill and was glad to have her mother near. Then shortly after Bill was born, her father had become ill, and she had been able to help her mother care for him through long, wearying months. Forced to retire because of poor health, her father still needed much



*Even the editor of the "Advice to You" column was stumped by this problem to which no answer seemed really right.*

consideration and care.

As time passed, her parents had come to rely on Reg and her. Reg did all the repair jobs and painting about the house, cut the grass, shoveled snow, and generally kept things in order. She helped her mother with the housework and did the marketing. Young Bill, whom her parents worshiped, spent much time with them. Alison thought gratefully, "We're a complete, happy family."

The kitchen door burst open, and in roared Reg and Bill. Reg flipped his hat onto a chair and catching Alison by the arms, spun her wildly about the room.

"Reg, stop it!" Laughing, Alison pushed him away. "What's gotten into you?"

He grinned, eyes sparkling. "Alison, I have great news!" Bill was clambering at his knees, and he hoisted the boy to his shoulders.

Alison smiled. She put a restraining hand on her wriggling, squealing son. "Reg, what is it?"

Bill slithered to the floor and scampered off. Reg steered Alison to a chair and swinging another in front of her, straddled it boyishly.

"Mrs. Kirby. . ." he was vainly trying to sound offhand. "Mrs. Kirby, your husband is being promoted—manager of the Edmonton branch office, no less!"

"Reg! How perfectly wonderful!" It wasn't often that a man as young as Reg could step up so quickly, even with his ability. She regarded him with pride.

"Boy, am I excited!" He was off the chair, chest out, face beaming.

But Alison's enthusiasm was short-lived. A sudden, disquieting thought had struck her. Edmonton! Half a continent from Toronto! This promotion would mean moving . . . leaving her mother and father. . .

Reg noticed her sudden quiet. "Something the matter, honey?"

She evaded the question with one of her own. "The move is definite?"

"Well, not quite. It's been okayed by those higher up, I understand, but won't be official for about a week. Word came along the grapevine." He searched her face. "There is something, Alison. Out with it."

She looked at him steadily. "I just remembered Mother and Dad. . ."

"Oh . . .!" Deflated, he dropped to a chair. "In the excitement I forgot. . ." His voice trailed off. Then, he straightened. "We'll take them with us!"

Alison shook her head. "They'd never leave. Their roots are here."

Reg spoke quickly. "You could visit them often. A substantial raise usually goes with a promotion."

Alison smiled gently. "You know it isn't that,

Reg. It's simply that they depend on us. How would they get along alone? And they have been good to us."

He nodded soberly. "I know. But this is the chance of a lifetime! There may not be another if I refuse. They'll assume that the job is too big for me to handle. I can hardly tell them that my in-laws are holding me back!"

Alison looked at him helplessly. "What can we do?"

He rose quickly, turned abruptly to the window, his face a frowning, brown study. "I don't know," he ground out. "I honestly don't know."

Next morning, moody and preoccupied, he left for work. Alison got Bill off to school and began tidying the apartment. Her mind kept going over and over the seemingly hopeless problem.

Was there any choice? It was difficult to think objectively, but there was much to be said in favor of going. They must consider Reg's career. He was tremendously pleased and flattered by the promotion, and well he might be. To sacrifice everything now would certainly hurt his pride, perhaps destroy his initiative and warp his entire outlook. Too, the larger salary meant material gains for them, possibly more advantages for Bill's future.

On the other hand, her father and mother had given Reg and her a wonderful start by taking them into their home. It had left them free of money worries, possibly contributing greatly to Reg's success. In many ways her parents had helped, without any thought of repayment, until eventually, they had gotten on their feet.

To leave now would create many hardships for the older folk. Still, had she the right to persuade Reg to forego such an excellent opportunity? If he did, would he in time come to resent her parents? They were *her* parents, and as such, really not his responsibility. If only they weren't so dependent . . . if only they weren't so devoted to Bill . . . if only her father were stronger. . .

She felt trapped, torn between her desire for her husband's success and her devotion and duty to her parents.

She was uneasy as she climbed the stairs to the flat above. Her mother was finishing the breakfast dishes. Alison spoke with forced cheerfulness. "How are things, Mother?"

"Fine, dear," her mother answered. "We're taking it easy. Today Dad goes to the doctor for his check-up."

"I'm perfectly all right," her father muttered.

"Of course you are," Alison's mother soothed, "but there's no point in being careless about these things."

"A waste of time!" the man snorted.

Alison laughed. "Mother, as long as Dad grum-



bles, you can be sure that he's feeling pretty well!"

She left quickly. Tense with her problem, she was afraid that she might convey some of this feeling to her parents, and that was the last thing that she wanted. The pleasant, happy home atmosphere that her father enjoyed contributed greatly to keeping him well. It would be unthinkable to burden her mother with their problem.

That evening, after Bill was in bed, Alison lifted a stack of freshly ironed clothes to take upstairs. "Come with me, Reg," she coaxed. "Dad would enjoy a game of checkers."

Reg heaved himself out of his chair. "Guess we must carry on as usual. How I wish we could solve this riddle to everyone's satisfaction!"

Alison's father and mother were in their living room. "How about checkers, Dad?" Reg suggested.

The older man lowered his newspaper. "Think I'll beg off tonight, Reg. Feel a little tired."

Alison frowned. Her father refusing checkers! Her eyes searched her mother's face. "Everything go well at the doctor's?" she asked casually.

Her mother nodded. "Oh, yes, just a routine check, you know."

Alison was reassured.

They did not stay long, and her parents did not press them to remain. The evening had been flat and somehow strained, with long silences and awkward pauses broken by inconsequential small talk.

Once downstairs, Reg said, "I should be shouting the news of my promotion from the housetops, instead of feeling guilty, as though I'm considering something sinister and underhanded."

The next few days dragged by with no solution in sight. Even the reply to a hasty letter sent to the "Advice to You" column in the local newspaper did not clarify Allison's thinking. She had hoped that the opinion of an outsider, someone who could see both sides of the picture and give her an unbiased opinion, might help. She was advised to decide what she wanted most—advancement for her husband and financial gain or the well-being and comfort of her parents.

Then one afternoon her mother came downstairs as Bill was leaving for school. She kissed him good-by with more warmth than usual. There was a hint of tears in her eyes as she watched him race down the walk.

"He's a wonderful boy," she said softly. "So like Reg. You've been lucky, Alison. Don't ever let anything stop you from giving first consideration to those two." She turned abruptly and hurried up to her flat.

Alison's eyes widened. It was almost as though her mother had read her mind and had supplied Alison with the solution for which she had been searching. For the course was suddenly clear. Much as she loved her parents, she couldn't sacrifice her husband's career, and perhaps indirectly her son's future. Each family must make its own life and carry on as best it could. Reg was entitled to this

chance, and she must make him understand that, at once.

A weight was lifted from her heart. The future would hold many difficult moments when she would question her decision. She would have pangs, wondering how her mother and father were managing on their own. Still, she knew that this was the only fair road.

Occupied with her thoughts, she did not hear her husband drive up. He came into the house looking more at ease than he had all week.

"Took the afternoon off," he said, answering the question in her eyes. He came straight to the point. "Alison, I'm going to turn down that promotion."

"Oh, no, Reg!" Hurriedly, the words rushed out. "You can't do that. I've only just realized what a mistake it would be for you to refuse."

He smiled. "You're a brick. I know what a wrench it would have been for you to leave, and I've thought everything out carefully. We'll stay. I'll tell the office the reason. Why shouldn't I? I believe it's important enough. And I'm not staying out of any sense of duty. It's simply that we all belong together. Your folks couldn't uproot themselves; and if they knew about the promotion, they would insist that we go. There are more important things, Alison, than getting ahead oneself. We have so much here, together. If we let our hearts decide, we'll never have any regrets."

"Oh, Reg." Alison looked at her husband with new respect. "You're sure?"

He put his arms around her. "Absolutely."

Alison's mother knocked and came into the room.

"You're home early, Reg. Is anything wrong?"

"Not a thing, Mother. Everything's fine."

Alison's mother smoothed her dress, then spoke nervously. "I've been wanting to talk to you, been putting it off all week." She hesitated. "The doctor has told Dad that he has to go south to a milder, drier climate."

"Dad's worse?" Instantly, Alison was alarmed.

Her mother shook her head. "No, but if he's to keep well, he must make the change. Dad says he won't go. But of course he must, and my place is with him. It's going to be terrible leaving you and Bill," her voice faltered slightly. "We must sell this house, for we'll need the money. If a buyer wanted it for himself, you would be forced out. . . ."

Reg started to laugh, and Alison hurried to explain.

"You'll never believe this, Mother, but Reg came home early today to tell me that he was refusing a promotion to manage the Edmonton branch of his firm. He felt that you and Dad wouldn't leave here, and he decided that our place was with you." She turned to Reg. "Now, there's nothing to stop you from taking that offer."

Her mother stared unbelievably at Reg. "You were going to give up this wonderful opportunity because of Dad and me?"

The shrilling telephone saved Reg from replying.

*(Continued on page 30)*



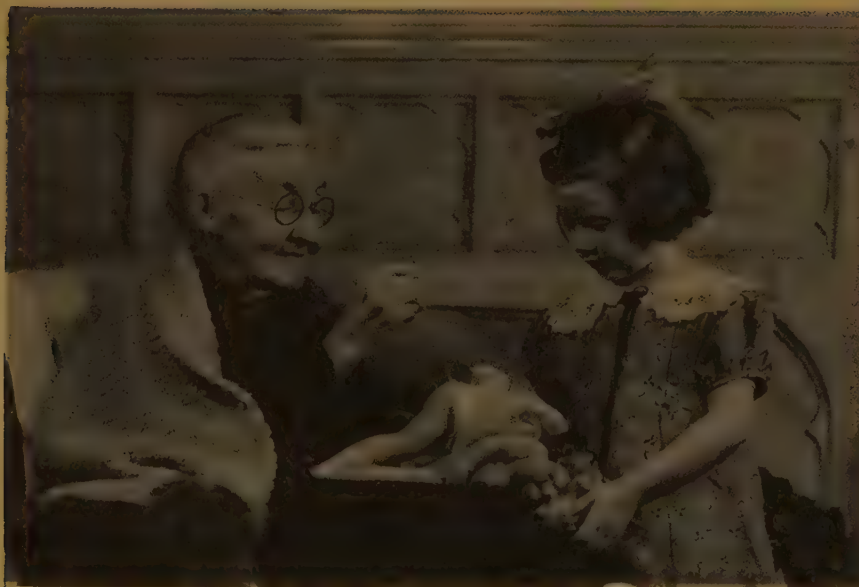


Photo by Harold M. Lambert

The most welcome gift to some shut-ins would be for someone to ask them to do a needed task.

## To Brighten the Life of a Shut-In

by Loie Brandom

There are, perhaps, very few of us who do not have a friend, or acquaintance who can be classed as a shut-in.

At first we are thoughtful and eager to make the weeks pass more quickly for our friends; but as the days go by, and we become more and more involved with the many other demands on our time, we become careless. We do not mean to be forgetful; and usually all that we need is a reminder of how time flies for the busy person and how it drags by for the shut-in. So a "memory book" is often the best solution for our problem.

Any kind of small, loose-leaf notebook will answer the need adequately. A loose-leaf book is suggested, because if the friend is a

shut-in for only a limited time, the page bearing his name can easily be removed upon his recovery.

Using one or more pages as needed for each friend, put the friend's name at the top of the first page, and then the address where the shut-in is to be found. Follow this with all the details that you can as to the likes, dislikes, needs, and preferences of each particular shut-in.

Be very observant when visiting the shut-in to see what would be useful or acceptable in each particular case. If the shut-in is only an acquaintance, whose likes and needs are not well known to you, then during your conversation try to discover (and remember) these, so that you can write them in your

memory book upon your return home.

After you have assembled all of the information that you can about the shut-in, have a page where you can list the date of each visit that you make. This will be a handy reference when you begin to wonder how long it has been since your last call. Also make a "memo" of any gift that you have taken with you. In this way you will avoid duplications.

There should still be enough room left in your memory book for suggestions of things to do for, or things to take to, the shut-in friend. Perhaps the first thing to list under the "remember" column is a weekly telephone call if the shut-in is able to answer the phone. This takes only a short time when you phone from your own home. If you are thoughtful enough to have remembered bits of current news of acquaintances whom your shut-in friend also knows or can tell in an interesting way comical jokes that you have read or heard, the shut-in will have something to think about for the rest of the day. Be sure that the news is always pleasant. If the patient is a member of the same church, club, or organization to which you belong, you will probably have many items for conversation in which he will be interested.

On the pages of your memory book headed, "gift suggestions for shut-ins," you probably will list the usual ones first: flowers, reading matter, and small items such as a glass of jelly, some fresh fruit, or something that you have baked in your own kitchen. These things almost every shut-in can use and appreciate.

You might add to this list some of the hard-to-think of remembrances, such as perfume, hand lotion, shaving lotion, and a bedside bag for holding small objects.

If the patient is to be shut in for a long period of time, an extension telephone at the bedside and a small radio or TV placed nearby make wonderful long-term gifts. Use good judgment, however, when presenting a shut-in with a canary or a bowl of trop-

(Continued on page 30)



# Are You a Right Number?

by Mary Blair Immel

*This article will help you teach your children to use the phone with courtesy.*

The smell of burning beans triumphantly invaded the living room; but Grace was helpless to do anything. She was chained to the telephone by the dominant and unceasing voice of Mrs. Chambers. The call had begun an ear-bending twenty minutes ago; but Grace had an uncomfortable premonition that Mrs. Chambers was getting her second wind.

Perhaps you are already a charter member of *Courteous Callers Unanimous*; but just in case you're not certain of your party-line popularity, why not check yourself on these items?

*Do you have a definite reason for calling?*

My next-door neighbors have a real problem. Madge's husband, Jim, who is just getting started in his own business, has his office in their home. He uses their phone for his important calls. One of the women in Madge's club is a constant caller, however, and she loves to chat. As she rambles on, Madge can't even get in a word to tell her that the phone is needed for urgent business calls.

Think of the other party every time you place a call. If you're feeling lonely and just want to talk to someone, it might be a good time to write that letter which you owe Aunt Minnie. You can be just as chatty in a letter as you wish, and you won't tie up someone's telephone.

*Do you know beforehand what you are going to say?*

Our women's fellowship president, Florence, has a wonderful way of calling. She is kept busy most of her day arranging meetings and working with her chairmen. Therefore, she has to cut her telephoning to a minimum.

Florence said that she sits down and makes a list of the things that she wants to say to the particular person whom she is calling. Whenever she calls, she

is very friendly; but she doesn't waste your time or hers with a needless, "Let's see now. There was something that I wanted to tell you, but I just can't seem to think of what it was."

*Do you place your calls at convenient times?*

Recently, during dinner, my husband was called to the phone no less than three times. There sat the dinner that I had so carefully prepared. Do you like cold mashed potatoes? Neither do we.

Take a look at the clock. It's a bit of thoughtfulness on your part not to place calls from five to seven in the evening. Women are usually preparing meals and don't want their gravy getting lumpy when they answer the phone. Then, too, most families eat dinner between these hours.

*Do you get off to a good start?*

My teen-age cousin, Sally, thinks that it is quite amusing to keep her friends "guessing who," but most adults should be past that stage. Nevertheless, there are a few who mumble so that it's nearly impossible to determine what they are saying.

*(Continued on page 30)*

Photo by erb



This business-like committee chairman collects her thoughts by making a list before she phones, then checks off items as she talks.



Among the thousands of jobs open to young men and women in this country, where will your son or daughter fit in? What will be his or her future? Do you wish you could see ahead?

You can.

The secret lies in encouraging your child's inborn curiosity and in recognizing his special aptitudes.

Every child has aptitudes, a readiness to learn in one or two specific directions. Johnny dislikes arithmetic but reads easily;

You are one person. Your child is another.

Every day you have the opportunity to observe your child's likes and dislikes and special aptitudes. Perhaps Mary prefers to remain at home reading stories, even writing one of her own, to attending some party. Perhaps Harry is late for dinner because he is in the basement taking something apart to see what makes it work.

Explain to Mary that everyone needs a bit of recreation and insist

tion on various fields: medicine, law, the arts, industry, and many others. Encourage your child to watch the programs with you and to ask questions.

### 3. *Visits to factories, industries, businesses*

In your vicinity or in a nearby city, you can find industries, buildings, and offices which you can visit with your child. This is an excellent way to encourage his curiosity and stimulate his interests.

As vacationtime approaches,

## Help Them find Their Life Work!

*Parents of youth will find this article helpful.*

Tommy dislikes books but finds figures are fun.

Many years ago there was a boy who loved motors. As he grew up he began to experiment with motors of his own. Soon he left the small town in which he lived and headed for the nearest big city. There he got a job for a few dollars a week, but he kept on experimenting. He was an enemy of the horse-drawn buggy. He said man could get around faster in a buggy driven by a motor. People laughed at him then, but today we enjoy the results of his genius. His name was Henry Ford.

You can see your child's future, even have a hand in shaping it, if you remember that your child is unique, not in the sense of being "special," but in the sense of being one, individual, *himself*. You encourage and help him to develop *his own* capabilities to their fullest potential. Never make the error of expecting him to develop the capabilities of another child, especially those of a brilliant older brother or sister. Remember that your child's career must be *his*, not yours. Never force on him your own choice of a job or profession.

that Harry be on time, but don't disparage their interests. Mary may be another Louisa Alcott. Harry may be a future Thomas Edison.

As the years go by, you expect your child to mature, not only physically but emotionally, mentally, and socially. How about his attitude toward work, study, a career? In this he should also mature. There are many ways in which you can help him.

### 1. *Reading*

Teach him how to use the public library, the children's room first. Point out how books are put on the shelves according to subject, books on medicine in one section, books on animals in another. Go with him to the library, but let him choose the books he wants. Be ready to read with him at home.

Give him career books at Christmas and for his birthday. Your librarian can help you here by giving you a list of books on any subject.

### 2. *TV and radio*

Watch the daily lists of programs for the many fine documentaries. This type of presentation frequently gives valuable informa-

tion on various fields: medicine, law, the arts, industry, and many others. Encourage your child to watch the programs with you and to ask questions.

### 4. *Facilities offered by the school*

Attend PTA meetings and get to know your child's teacher. Discuss with her your child's personality, his tendencies, any problems that he has.

The school may also have a guidance program or offer tests for intelligence and aptitude. If they do have the tests, you can probably learn from the results. However, such testing is not yet perfected and should not be regarded as infallible. You know your child and your own observations may be a far more accurate indication of his potentialities.

### 5. *Summer and after-school jobs*

If your son wants to deliver papers or your daughter wants to work in the dime store during the summer, encourage them to have these experiences, provided, of course, that there is no danger to their health. The more such experiences they have, the more they learn about the working world of which they will one day be a part.



The junior camp counselor may decide to become a naturalist or teacher. In any case, he is learning to take responsibility and to get along with people—useful skills for any kind of work.

by Louise Horton



Photo by Three Lions

These part-time, “feeler” jobs also give the opportunity to teach your child a sense of values. Steer him away from a “money is everything” philosophy. A job that offers valuable experience or chance of advancement is to be preferred over a job that pays more but offers no stimulation or chance for improvement.

#### 6. Club, community, church

Encourage your child to join the school club that gives him an opportunity to indulge his special interest. If science is his love, then the science club is the place for him. He will associate with others whose interests parallel his own. He will get to know the science instructor who can give him valuable advice. He will attend lectures, discussions, and movies and take part in tours that emphasize the latest scientific discoveries and advances.

Community and church offer many opportunities. Boys and girls can often volunteer for civil defense, community chest or red cross drives. In church they can join the choir or take part in social action projects. All this adds up

to experience in living and working with others.

Aside from encouraging your child in these six ways, you can add to your own knowledge for his benefit. The daily paper and current business magazines will keep you up-to-date on trends in different career fields. Know what is going on in industry, trade, business, finance, communications, the arts, engineering, architecture, medicine, law. Know where the demand is increasing and where it is decreasing. When your child comes up with a question, you will know the answer or know where to find it.

Requirements from professional careers today are rising because of constant changes in our swiftly advancing world and because of the high degree of competition. Many young men and women seek careers in reporting, medicine, law, education, business, and countless other fields. Many fail to make the grade, not because of a lack of education but because of some other deficiency, a fault of temperament, perhaps, or a personality defect.


In all the professions you will find multiple requirements are demanded, requirements that involve personality, the ability to get along, temperament and character, as well as education and ability.

Even the skilled and semi-skilled jobs in the industrial areas today often demand more of a man than the skill itself. Here, too, personality and character are of importance.

During the years in which your child is feeling his way toward a career, you can help him to develop a social sense, an ability to get along with people but also to stand firmly and unafraid for what is right.

You can see your child's future if, through the years, you watch for all these developments—curiosity, aptitudes, temperament, personality. You won't see the future in one flash, but the picture will fill in gradually until, by graduation, both you and he will have a fairly accurate idea of what he wants in his future and be able to guess how closely he will come to achieving it.





# THE USE OF SILENCE IN WORSHIP

by Russell E. Rees

We are all the citizens of two worlds, one an outer, visible, audible world, and one an inner, unseen, silent world. We live much of our lives in the outer one, for we must of necessity communicate with our fellowmen, attend to our vocational obligations, move from place to place, keep contact with our environment, and be aware of the noises of the market place. This outer world is a place of noises, of raucous voices, of insistent calls for our attention.

We are never completely at home in this busy, noisy world. Within us is another world, deep, quiet, real. It is possible for us to forget and neglect this inner self, and to go on for days greeting our fellowmen, talking to our families, "getting and spending," without returning to the real self, without really knowing the answer to the question, "Who am I?"

The sin against the Holy Spirit is simply the denial of the presence of this deeper self, the real person at the center. The prodigal son could run away from his home and his father, could waste his life in shallow living, but the whole boy was not bad. He had

lived with his father too long for that. The real person had been pushed back into the silence, and the voices of appetite and excitement for a time held the center of his attention. When he was still enough to listen he heard, as Emerson says, not merely "the gong for dinner but the whistle from the Spartan life." "I will arise and go to my father."

"Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a divine center, a quiet voice, to which we may continually return," wrote Thomas Kelly. There is real danger in our continual speech, the danger that talk may be an escape from hearing and heeding the voice within.

One of the ways we may return to the inner sanctuary of the soul and hear the voice is by silence. We often degrade the meaning of prayer by thinking of it as chiefly petition, the act of telling God what we think and feel and want. If God is all-knowing and all-loving, he is always far beyond us, both in anticipating our needs and in graciously supplying them before we ask. "While we were yet sinners, Christ



died for us." True prayer should be communion, or conversation, and the art of conversation is to listen as well as speak. "Be still, and know that I am God." "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." "Keep silence, and hear, O Israel." "For God alone, my soul waits in silence."

Perhaps you do not quite know how to use silence. It can be effectively used alone, and it can be used most helpfully in the family, even with small children, and it can be used by groups.

For the individual who wants to find its values, follow some such pattern as this. Find a place when you can be undisturbed for an appropriate time (ten minutes to start with). Be seated in a comfortable position, with feet and hands relaxed, with eyes closed, and slowly let go all the tensions of the body, the limbs, the face and throat muscles, the mind. Some find it well to say some sentence of preparation, such as, "I am in thy presence, O Lord. Let me be attentive to thee in whatever way thou dost lead." It is important that one have no sense of urgency and no disappointment if nothing seems to happen. The undisciplined inner life may not be able immediately to be aware of the presence. Even without spectacular success, many come away from such an experience with a sense of renewal and refreshment which will grow with added experience.

Children also are able to enter into creative periods of silence with adults. The ability to be still is an indication of inner growth, and sitting still gives opportunity for God to deal with us at new depths of being. Even the small child may learn this art of quietness, and something very wonderful happens as we put the body aside for a while and allow the Spirit to rise up and make us aware of this inward life which is always there, but sometimes is beaten down into submission by the aggressive demands of the body.

For a number of years I was in charge of the camping program for our youth groups. As is customary now among the churches, our camps were held by a lake side. It is hard to measure all the things which happen in a camp, and harder still to say why this or that happened as it did. The very age of the group is important, for it is as if they were poised, waiting for the Great Moment. The adult leadership is always important and especially one or two individuals who in some strange way "communicate" with the group.

I have met these young people often in the years following. Now many are married and have their own families. As we have talked I have asked what they remembered most from their camp experience, and almost invariably they have said the vesper service. Now it is our custom to hold the vespers on the hill looking westward over the lake, just as the sun is

going down, making a golden path across the water to the very feet of each person. We meet in complete silence, broken only by some word of prayer or praise, or some sharing of confession or concern, or some new commitment which it seems right to declare to the group. Sometimes little is said vocally, but the long thoughts of youth as they sit with their companions, not in busy conversation, and not directed by any "leader of worship," but using only the language of the stars in their courses, the language of the seed in agony of birth, the eternal silences, no one can know what tremendous things are happening in the souls of these young people. The importance of it is only to be guessed at by the fact that ten or fifteen years later this is the moment of memory.

It is perhaps wise to warn you that it is not always easy to find the values in silence. Skill in being quiet, in allowing the spirit to come up for air and for growth, is not an instinctive thing, although we all have some capacity for it. It is something which may be learned, and which by practice becomes much more rewarding. Many people have said that a few minutes of such waiting is often enough to banish fatigue, to clear the mind for more accurate thinking, and at times to open the door to unexpected insights and sense of direction. "We kneel, how weak, we rise how full of power."

"Dig deep enough in any man and you will find something divine," said St. Augustine, and Rufus Jones adds to this: "What Christ has revealed to us is the fact that we always have higher, diviner possibilities in us. . . . The sinner has not found himself. . . . He has missed the real me."

It is this search for the "real me," the person I truly am, that is the vital search of all life. I am not only the garrulous, superficial person, the hail-fellow who smiles and jokes with my contemporaries, but I am also the seeker. And deep down within us all there is "something of God." It is in these deep places that we meet not only ourselves but the holy God. We do not worship silence, but we keep silent that we may worship the God who is always there reminding us, "Behold I stand at the door and knock." Man is incurably religious, in the sense that he can know no peace until the true self meets and has fellowship with the true God. One of the paths to this peace, followed by countless men and women, is the way of silence.

And His holy ear we pain  
With our noisy words and vain.  
Not for Him our violence  
Storming at the gates of sense,  
His the primal language, his  
The eternal silences!

—John Greenleaf Whittier





# A Hid

The invitations, written on black paper with white ink, and decorated with white ghost stickers or sketches, should contain this information:

Look over your shoulder,  
And see what you find.  
I'm sure that a ghost  
Hovers not far behind.  
So from goblins and spooks,  
Our party is hidden.  
But we want you to come,  
So here is your "biddin'."  
Now listen to this,  
And please don't get sore.  
For I'm asking you to come,  
'Round to the back door.

Hour	Place	Date
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If there is an outside entrance leading directly to the basement or playroom, that is fine; but if not, then have only greenish, eerie lights that flicker as the guests are led through the kitchen and down the stairs to the rooms decorated with Halloween symbols, where either orange and black, or the more ghostly black and white colors have been used.

As the guests descend the darkened stairway, feeling their way along by means of the hand railing, their own hands come in contact with objects cold, slick, wiggly, clammy, or furry, all of which produce tingling sensations that put the guests in the right mood for a ghostly séance.

Jack-o'-lanterns, big and small, grin their welcome to the guests in the rooms below, as ghosts and goblins peek out from behind shocks of corn fodder stacked in the corners. How the ghosts and spooks found their way to the hidden party, no one will tell; but even the old black witch is there on her broomstick, mumbling fortunes and warnings to all who will listen to her. Dried corn husks or dry leaves scattered on the floor add an unusual sound quality when walked upon. Clanking chains, the soft beat of a drum, or a vacuum cleaner hidden in a dark corner and turned on from time to time at exciting moments in a ghost story or witch tale will add realism as sound effects.

A ghost story or witch's tale is a splendid way with which to start the party off in the right mood, as the late comers can join the circle of listeners without interrupting the storyteller. The narrator should be asked in advance, so that he can come prepared for the storytelling and make the tale as hair-raising as possible with sound effects.

**Goblin Gibberish.** Divide the guests into two groups of equal size and line them up on opposite sides of the room. Have previously prepared sayings such as the following written down on slips of paper: *Withered witches watch weary weavers working.* Good ghosts gather green grapes for grouchy goblins. Jolly Jacks joke jeering jittery jaguars. Silent spooks spoof squeamish squeegees. A slip containing one of these sayings is handed to the leader of the talking



# Halloween Party

by Loie Brandom



side, and each member of the group is given one word of the saying. If the group is a large one, several people may have the same word. At a signal from the leader all members of the group say their words at the same time. The other group must guess what the sentence is. When they succeed, a slip with a sentence on it is handed to them, and they have a chance to do the talking. This is a good game to play for a short period of time.

**Ghostly Favorites.** The players are seated in a circle. The leader, who knows the game, points to one of the players and remarks, "Ghosts like vanilla ice cream." The one spoken to nods his head, turns to the player on his left, and says, "Ghosts also like soda crackers." The leader nods his head, and the play continues on around the circle. If, however, someone says, "Ghosts like lobster," the leader would say, "No, ghosts do not like lobster," and the player would be eliminated. The catch is that only white foods can be named. The players who discover this stay in the game until all the others have been eliminated.

A new version of the popular old Halloween stunt of "bobbing for apples" will provide an amusing surprise. A large shallow pan of water, in which a number of long-stemmed apples are floating, is placed either on a small table or on the floor so that the players must kneel while trying to catch the stem of an apple in their teeth. The leader calls for volunteers, who are promised a reward for their efforts.

When six or eight have been obtained, they are asked to move into another room and await their turn.

One at a time they are blindfolded and brought back into the first room. What the blindfolded player doesn't know, however, is that while he was out of the room, the pan of water and apples was exchanged for a pan of soft feathers or fluffy cotton. When the player leans over the pan to try to grasp an apple stem, a slight push on the back of the head by the leader will force his face into the feathers, giving him the spooky surprise of the evening. He is then allowed to enjoy the fun of seeing the other volunteers equally surprised as they are brought in blindfolded, and the stunt is repeated. Fun for both contestants and watchers!

**Pumpkin Seed Pickers.** Have ready for the contestants small bowls or custard cups, each one containing the same number of washed and dried pumpkin seeds. Each player is handed six drinking straws. The object of the game is to see which player can first get all of his pumpkin seeds deposited into a bowl in the center of the table simply by the suction method of holding one seed at a time against the end of the straw long enough to get it transferred from custard cup to central bowl. Here is where the long-winded guys have the advantage.

Halloween refreshments—doughnuts and cider? Why, of course! That is, unless pumpkin pie and coffee or cocoa are preferred. Either will please the guests.



# Worship in the family with children

## To Use with Younger Children

### Happy Autumn Time

It was a beautiful day! The sun was shining brightly. The skies were blue. A soft wind was blowing. The leaves were gay with color. Some of them were red; some were yellow; some were brown; and some of them looked almost purple! As the wind blew, leaves drifted slowly to the ground.

Big brother Bob was raking the leaves into a neat pile. As he worked, he sang a song that Debbie liked. It was something about happy autumn time. Debbie did not know just what the words meant, but she liked the sound of Bob's voice. She liked the way he looked as he worked and sang.

Debbie began to hum the tune Bob was singing.

"What's 'happy autumn time'?" she asked.

"It is autumn now. It is the time after summer is over, and before winter begins," Mother said.

"Oh!" Debbie said. "Is it a happy time?"

Mother smiled. "Yes," she said, "it is. It makes me happy to see the bright sun and the blue skies. I'm glad that God has planned for all the good things that have grown during the summer to be ready for us to eat during the winter."

"What things?" Debbie wanted to know.

*Photo by Don Knight*



"Peas and beans and corn that we've processed and stored in the freezer, and strawberries and peaches, too. Then there is the popcorn hanging in the basement waiting to be popped. There are pumpkins waiting to be made into pies."

"That sounds good—pumpkin pie!" Bob said. "I'd like a piece right now!"

"Get me a pumpkin, and I'll see what we can do about it," Mother said with a smile.

"Let me go, too," Debbie begged.

"O.K.," Bob said, "come along."

Debbie and Bob trudged to the field back of the barn. They looked at the rows of pumpkins, their plump yellow sides shining in the sunlight.

"Boy, look at those pumpkins!" Bob said. "Some of them will make fine jack-o'-lanterns!"

"Jack-o'-lanterns?" Debbie asked.

"Don't you remember the ones we had last Halloween? We cut eyes and nose and mouth in one side, and put a candle inside. You know, Daddy helped us make them."

Debbie wasn't sure, but Bob kept on talking about them. "Will we have some more?" she asked.

Bob nodded. "Sure. We always do. Tell you what I'll do. We'll find a pumpkin that will make a good one. You can mark its face with a black crayon, and I'll make it for you."

"Oh, thank you," Debbie said.

And that is what they did.

"So this is happy autumn time," Debbie sang to herself. "Is the sun and the food and the pumpkins all that makes it happy?" she asked.

"No," Mother answered, "God planned for it. That is the best reason for our being happy."

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### Theme for October: My World in Autumn

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#### A Word to Parents

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *The Secret Place*, you may find that some of them fit into the meditations in that booklet.



# To Use with Older Children

## Now It's Happy Autumn Time

All through my young days I lived in the country. There every season was beautiful, but somehow we children loved the autumn time best. All summer I, for one, would be thinking about late September.

It was lovely, then, to watch the trees slowly turning red and bronze and gold, to see the thistle pods by the roadside sending their silver silk along the wind, to hear the crickets at twilight tuning up their little flutes. Then, later on, would come the fine fun of raking together fallen leaves and romping wildly in the great heap we had made.

When October began we'd start watching eagerly for the first frost; then, for the second. After that, it was hard to wait for the next one, because not until three frosts had fallen would chestnuts and persimmons be really ripe. Only too well I knew about persimmons, for one year, unwilling to wait, I had sampled a persimmon too soon. It had looked ripe, but it turned my mouth wrong side out. Next year I waited for the third frost.

Soon came the best fun of all, chestnut time. Away

we'd rush some cool, crisp morning, our little tin buckets clanking as we ran. If there had been wind in the night, the ground beneath our largest tree would be covered with handsome big burrs. Others might be still falling. Plop, plop, down they came, sometimes on our heads.

Numbers of the burrs had opened when they hit the ground; others had to be placed on a flat stone and pounded open with a smaller stone. This often caused prickly fingers, but what did we care? Soon, hurrying home with buckets full to the brim, we'd spread our treasure out for a little more drying. And then, a week or so later, we'd gather around a big open fire for a chestnut roast. Maybe a visiting cricket would be fluting over in a corner, maybe not. Anyway, never did anything taste better than those roasted chestnuts!

All these happy memories of my childhood remained with me as I grew up. Now do you see why I wrote a poem about autumn time?

—NANCY BYRD TURNER

## Now It's Happy Autumn Time

Nancy Byrd Turner

Grace Wilbur Conant

1. Now it's hap - py au - tumn time, Now the year is turn - ing;  
2. Now it's hap - py au - tumn time, Now, to barn and bin,

O - ver-head the leaves are red, Fires of home are burn - ing.  
Food and grain from field and plain Rich we gar - ner in.

REFRAIN  
God, who made the whole good year, All the love - ly days,

Now that au - tumn time has come. Hear our song of praise!

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# For Family Worship



Photo by George A. Hammond

## Thanking God

Thank you for October—  
For the evenings long and bright,  
When, our supper over,  
We sit beneath the light.

Beside myself, there's Mother,  
There's Father, Sue, and Lee,  
And we are just as happy  
As anyone can be.

We read and laugh and study,  
Till bedtime comes at nine.  
Oh, thank you for October,  
And for his home of mine.

—Enola Chamberlin<sup>1</sup>

## I Like Autumn

Springtime is a green time,  
With grass all new and green.  
Summer is a yellow time,  
Dressed like a fairy queen.

Autumn is a gay time  
Of yellow, gold, and red,  
Of crispy nights and sunny days,  
With blue skies overhead.

Winter, summer, spring and fall,  
I like autumn best of all!

—Belle Chapman Morrill

## October Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for the fun  
That comes with this month's ending—  
The things to make, the games to play,  
The parties I'm attending.

The piles of yellow pumpkins now  
In jack-o'-lantern sizes,  
That grew just right for Halloween—  
That night of glad surprises.

Please teach me to be thoughtful, God,  
In everything I do;  
And help me make a happy time  
For other people, too.

—Edith M. Cummings<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>From *Story World*. Copyright 1953 and 1955 by The American Baptist Publication Society. Used by permission.

**Worship Center:** If your family is accustomed to having a worship center to help to create an atmosphere of worship in your home, the children may help to arrange it. Fall flowers or colorful leaves (if they have begun to change color in your section of the country) may be used; or branches of shrubs bearing bright berries may be arranged. The Bible may be open to the "Call to Worship" or to some other passage of scripture that speaks of the change of the seasons.

**Call to Worship:** "While the earth remains, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."—Genesis 8:22.

**Song:** Use the song printed on page 19 or choose between "O Give Thanks Unto the Lord," primary pupil's book, year three, fall quarter, page 22, and "All People That on Earth Do Dwell," junior pupil's book, year one, fall quarter, page 29.

**Poem:** Read one of the poems printed on this page, or choose between "This Earth of Ours," primary pupil's book, year two, fall quarter, page 22; "God Is Near," primary pupil's book, year three, fall

quarter, page 18; "Hymn of Thanksgiving," junior pupil's book, year one, fall quarter, page 34.

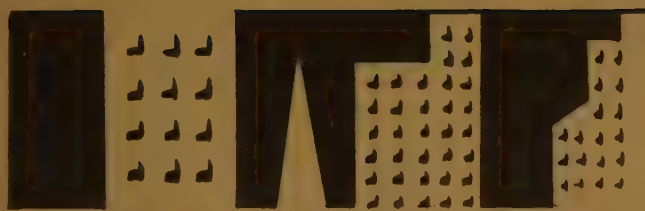
**Scripture:** Psalm 100. If you have children of primary age, they may read the psalm with you from page 19 of their book for year three, fall. If you have a Bible with large type, let them read it from the Bible. Juniors may read from the Bible.

**Meditation:** Plan your own meditation based upon a favorite verse of scripture, upon the story, upon the "Call to Worship," or upon Psalm 100.

**Story:** "God's Good Promise," primary pupil's book, year one, fall, beginning on page 23.

**Prayer:** Pray your own prayer of gratitude to God for his good plan for the changing seasons, and for the beauties of autumn; or use the prayer printed here: Dear God, we are glad for your loving thoughtfulness for us, and for all your creatures. We enjoy the beauties of autumn, with its harvest of nuts and fruit and vegetables. Help us to work with you to provide for our winter needs, and make us want to share all these good things with others. Amen.





## Surprise for Sandra

by Enola Chamberlin

Sandra was sitting at the apartment house window looking out onto the street. There was not a tree or a bit of grass to be seen anywhere. There was a place out in the back where she and the other children could play, but it had a cement floor and just a canvas awning for shade when the sun was hot.

"I don't mind living in the city," she said to her mother, who was looking out of the window, too. "But I do miss the green fields, the birds, and the stream with the little fish in it."

Mother put her hand on Sandra's head. "I miss them, too," she said. "But we both have to be brave and not complain, because the city is where Daddy's work is now. We want to be with him, don't we?"

"Oh, yes," Sandra cried. "I'd rather live with Daddy even if I never saw a green field again in all my life. So I won't complain ever."

Just then Daddy came home. He gathered Sandra up in his arms.

"What is my sweetheart looking so sad about?" he asked.

Sandra gave him a big smile. "I'm not looking sad, Daddy. I just wasn't smiling before you came, that's all."

Daddy pinched her ear. "I know that having to leave the country was hard for you and Mother," he said. "And you're both being so good about it that I ordered a big surprise for both of you."

"Are we going back to the country?" Sandra asked.

"Sometime, I hope," Daddy said. "But that isn't the surprise."

"When will the surprise happen?" Sandra asked.

"Any time now," Daddy said.

There was a knock on the door. When Mother opened it, two men came in carrying a long window box filled with growing plants. Two more men followed. One of them had a parakeet in a cage. The other had a big fish bowl with red and black fish in it.

"Oh, thank you, Daddy, thank you," Sandra cried. "You couldn't take us back to the country. So you brought the country to us."

"I did the best I could," Daddy said. "And I want to thank you, Sandra. You could have fretted

*(Continued on page 30)*

## Halloween Surprise

by Enola Chamberlin

Pumpkin Street was getting ready for Halloween. In all the houses boys and girls were cutting cats and bats out of black paper. They were getting out their masks and their costumes of skeletons, witches, goblins, and ghosts. They were cutting faces in pumpkins and sticking candles in them all ready to be lighted on Halloween.

The Halloween party this year was to be at Esther's house. She had tall stalks of dry corn in the corners of the party room. She had orange and black decorations everywhere. Just before the party was to break up, she planned to bring Tabby, her black, black cat, into the party room. She would turn the lights all out. Then with Tabby's little collar bells jingling, she would rub the black cat's fur until the sparks flew.

When Esther left for school that morning, she gave Tabby an extra pat.

"Get lots of rest today, Tabby," she said. "You have to stay up for my party tonight, you know."

Tabby mewed gently as though she knew all about it. But that afternoon when Esther came home from school, Tabby was nowhere to be found. Esther hunted and hunted. She called and called. Mother could not take time to hunt. She was busy fixing the black and orange place cards and preparing the refreshments for the party.

"Whatever shall I do if Tabby doesn't come back for this evening?" Esther wailed. "I want her and her sparks to make my party different. Now I don't have anything special at all."

"She'll probably be back before party time," Mother said. "She may be away often in the afternoons, and we don't notice, but you know she's always here in the evenings."

Esther hung the collar with the bells right by the kitchen door so that it would be handy. After supper she called again for Tabby. Then she had to go and put on her witch costume to receive her guests.

Soon the party room was filled with laughing ghosts and witches and brownies. They all had funny hats and black masks over their eyes. They played games and had a lot of fun.

Every little while Esther ran to the kitchen. She

*(Continued on page 30)*



# Making Church Membership Meaningful at Home

Many parents send their children to church and then accept no further responsibility for guiding their religious development. As others learn more about what is involved in the guidance of religious growth, they, too, may wish to turn over this responsibility to the church. The home, however, is potentially the best agency for Christian teaching, and parents are the most effective teachers. This does not minimize the value of the church. It stands ever ready to help us guide the growing religious life of our children.

This paragraph makes us as parents aware of both an opportunity and a responsibility. This finds a correlation in another current book, this time a secular one, entitled, *Effective Home-School Relations*, by James L. Hymes, Jr. The author points out the widespread evidence that "parents in America prize their children." They work and care for them, doing and getting the best they can for them. A child in our country is more treasured than exploited. Best sellers of the U. S. government printing office through all the years have been two publications for parents: *Infant Care* and *Your Child from One to Six*. Americans

are conscientious about their children.

Since this article appears in a Christian publication that will be read in Christian homes, it is safe to assume that it should be addressed to Christian parents. If parents in general are so vitally interested in their children and their welfare, how much more will Christian parents be interested in and concerned for the welfare of their children! This concern will not stop short of the spiritual welfare of the child in our homes. Since the church is the repository of our spiritual faith, it follows that Christian parents will want to make the church as meaningful as possible in their lives as individuals and as families.

It is the hope and the expectation of the average Christian parents (and, strangely enough, of many parents who themselves are not professing Christians) that their child will in the normal course of his religious development make a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Ultimately, he will become a member of the local congregation, but, more important, of the universal Christian fellowship that is the church. This is not an event isolated in a child's experience, however. It begins in the guidance, the inspiration, and the teaching of both the church and the home; and it finds its highest fulfillment and expression after the event under the guidance and the encouragement of the home. Let us assume for the purpose of this article, that the church is doing all that it can to make church membership meaningful through its teaching and its program. What can we do to make church membership meaningful at home?

It is not without good reason that George A. Buttrick has affirmed that the home is superior to all other character-forming agencies. From the standpoint of time a child spends one hour a week in church school, forty hours a week in day school, and fifty or sixty hours at home. Vacations tip the balance more heavily on the side of the home. To parents who sometimes wail, "Can't you do something about my Billy?" the minister is often more polite than frank. Perhaps he should say, "My dear Mrs. Blank, fifty hours at home pulling one way or all

Photo by Clark and Clark



You always send something along with your money gift. It may be a complaint, indifference, or a prayer and rejoicing.

## by Howard G. Hartzell

ways, and one hour in church! The odds are somewhat unequal!"

What can the home do to make church membership (and by necessary implication, Christian life and living) meaningful? Immediately, we must realize that the question and the answer must embrace the entire family; for unless the parents themselves are professing Christians, little or nothing can or will be done to work toward this purpose. Rare indeed is that home where any individual member of the family will cultivate or keep a spirit of Christian faith and devotion to the church without the support and help of other members of the family. Therefore, church membership must be important to all, or it will not be very important to any.

In the first place we can never minimize the primary importance of personal example. Children are influenced by their parents and by other (and usually older) children in the family; parents are influenced by one another. Wesner Fallaw suggests that, since it is painful to oppose parents, the growing child may go along with his parents' views even when these are not pleasing to the child himself. Fallaw says that he thinks the home can do the most thorough job of Christian teaching. In most cases when the ideas and attitudes of the home are contrary to those taught by the church school, the child usually accepts the standards of the home. (Wesner Fallaw, *The Modern Parent and the Teaching Church*.)

To which organization outside of the home do we give our primary loyalty, our support, our time, and our concern? Our church, our lodge, our clubs, and our various organizations will often conflict in their demands for our time and our presence. Which receives the preference when a choice must be made? Our children will observe the example that we set.

As for the church itself, it is a fellowship that places God and Christ at the center. Worship and reverence dominate its life. Can worship become suddenly real for one hour of one day of each week unless it is nurtured in the home some part of every day? It is not easy for the average family to find a mutually acceptable time of each day for family devotions, with the conflicting schedules of family life and activity today. Yet with a realization of its im-

portance and a sincere desire to find such a time, it will be possible. Many families are already enjoying the blessings of family worship together.

Has your family, for example, experimented with Bible readings together, selecting a passage and having every member read the part of a character in the story? Such a program helps to dramatize an otherwise prosaic passage. The Book of Acts, shared in this way, reveals a dramatic picture of the beginnings of the Christian church. Ingenuity will open many other fascinating ways of Bible study together.

How long has it been since you have invited the minister and his family to dinner? Or perhaps your child's teacher in the church school? Or a member of another race who is also a Christian? Or some interesting personality such as a missionary who might be available as an overnight guest? Such experiences help to lift the church out of a one-day-a-week experience as children come to know such individuals as people, interesting to be with, thrilling to know!

Sunday dinner, too, has its opportunities. Someone has said in jest that the favorite fare on many

Photo by erb



Daily happenings in the life of this family lead them in their choice of hymns to sing together.



church families' dinner tables is roast minister! Yet parents and children may discuss together the morning sermon; other features of the morning worship; the lessons heard in classes; the work of the deacons who served the communion; the communion itself; the meaning of the church fellowship of which the family is a part with its privileges and its responsibilities.

What a lesson there is, too, in the church envelope that we shall place in the offering, as we discuss it at Sunday breakfast! What is the money used for that goes into the current expense pocket? Where will our gifts to the mission work of our church go? Let us trace a dollar from the time that we put it into the mission pocket until it arrives on the mission

field and is used there. Compare what a dollar will do in America and how much more it can do in Africa!

Have you ever held a Family Recognition Service when a member of the family joins the church? We observe birthdays, anniversaries, weddings. Why not plan a family service of rejoicing when one is committed to Christ and the church? In fact, why not make such an event an occasion for an annual commemoration just as we observe our natural birthday?

Do you enjoy singing the hymns in your church? If so, why not purchase a copy of your church hymnal to sing from at home? Indeed, why not ask your minister to announce on the preceding Sunday the hymns to be sung next week and learn them together

For

"Making Church Membership Meaningful at Home"

# Study Guide



## Preparation for the Meeting

The New Testament phrase, "The church in your house" (Philem. 2), is a significant one, as is the verse, "Every day in the temple and at home they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42). In its earliest days, the Christian church was inseparably bound up with the home. The strength of Jewish religion, out of which the Christian church came, is to be found today, as it was in the Apostle Paul's day, in its strong alliance with the home. The Christian church, unlike the Jewish faith, has allowed this original relationship largely to dissolve and to disappear. Ask someone to be prepared to speak briefly upon some of the meaningful observances in the average Jewish home that serve to strengthen the family's ties with the historic faith. Then have someone else in the group prepare to present a picture of the average Christian home and its passive lack of concern reflected in its willingness to let the church handle all matters of religious training and education. Perhaps your own pastor would be willing to present the above comparison on the basis of his own knowledge and experience.

In preparation for this meeting, the leader will find the book, *The Recovery of Family Life*, by Elton and Pauline Trueblood, particularly chapter five, especially helpful. Another stimulating book is the one by Donald More Maynard, *Your Home Can Be Christian*, especially

chapter 10. Both of these chapters will furnish excellent background material.

## Conducting the Meeting

The meeting might begin with a devotional reading from the Scriptures, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, which will give both the background for Jewish practices of home religion and an ideal to which we as Christians should aspire. Then the presentation suggested under "Preparation" might be made, either by two speakers or by the pastor. Then let us turn the spotlight upon our own homes and our own particular concerns, in the light of the above.

Divide the group into smaller groups, preferably keeping husbands and wives together, the number of these groups and their size depending upon the size of the total group. Then allow five to ten minutes for a "buzz session" when the groups will discuss, each in its own circle, the opportunities for making church membership meaningful at home and the problems that might stand in the way. At the close of the allotted time, during which each group will have been asked to decide upon one particular home situation that could be typical, have a representative from that group present it briefly to the entire audience, closing with the question, "What should we as parents do?" Have a chalkboard available upon which these situations can be listed as they are presented. Then a general discussion can be held upon each one of the problem situations in turn,

and the group can seek a positive solution.

A typical situation might be this: "Our family has always been interested in and loyal to our church, and our growing children have accepted church school attendance as natural. In the past year, however, a new family has moved in next door, a family much like ours in ages of parents and children. They are lovely people and good neighbors. However, they have no interest in church attendance or religion, as far as we can see. Sunday to them is just a holiday. The parents lounge around in the morning and the children play noisily and happily in the yard. Our children are beginning to ask why church is important for our family if it is not important for the Blacks next door. What should we as parents do?"

What ways would your group suggest to help make church membership meaningful for this family and these children in the light of this situation?

## Questions for Discussion

1. Is each problem considered a common problem which many families may face, or is it specific to a particular situation and hence in need of a specific solution?
2. Could we achieve more worthwhile results if several families could work together on a particular project?
3. Do we expect too much of the church in helping to strengthen our families? Do we expect too little? What have we a right to expect of the church?
4. If our family has a problem, to what extent are we as parents responsible for it? Do we desire a solution sincerely enough to sacrifice, if necessary, to achieve it?
5. Should a family deliberately choose its friends from among other church families, with many of the same ideals and interests as ours, or should we allow circumstances to select our friends for us?
6. Should we view the Black family in the illustration as a threat, or should we look upon them as an opportunity

(Continued on page 28)

at home? He will most likely be glad to co-operate; and other families might also enthusiastically endorse the idea.

What is "the church" itself? Let members of the family suggest answers: it is a building; it is a congregation, with or without a building; it is a denomination; it is a world-wide fellowship of all Christians. It may be many other things to a child or to an adult. It might well be described as "I, magnified a hundred times over." What kind of church would my church really be, if every member were just like me?

In conclusion, listen to Dr. Paul Vieth: "Parents have been allowed too easily to assume that sending a child to church school was equivalent to providing

him with religious education. The acceptance of a pupil in the church school should carry with it the acceptance on the part of his parents of an obligation to carry forward this same process in home religion. . . . The church that will dare assume that the family is basic in religious education and will refuse to accept pupils in its church school unless parents agree to carry on with a home program, will find itself not only growing in effectiveness but also in numbers. Needless to say, such a plan will require a program of parent education so comprehensive and vital that it may in fact become the most important phase of the church's work in religious education." ("Christian Nurture—Then and Now," *Religious Education*, May-June, 1944, p. 133.)

# BIBLEGRAM

by Hilda E. Allen

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicate word endings.

Reading from left to right, the filled pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.

A Misty -----	30 118 54 76 26
B A sweeper -----	45 29 106 13 62
C Popular spread for sandwiches -----	119 64 24 48 108 10
D A kind of bug -----	111 42 8 21 74 90
E The main road -----	69 35 6 77 14 98 5
F Crown -----	49 7 60 46 53 65 18
G Captured -----	32 44 115 34 85 68
H The sister of Lazarus and Mary, friend of Jesus ----	15 110 41 82 120 19
I On the inside -----	113 81 33 83 93 11
J To spin, or twirl -----	63 57 103 94 117
K An act of kindness -----	40 101 47 56 25
L The first extra inning of a ball game -----	37 116 105 78 89
M Ladies -----	80 104 43 124 17

N Wished for -----	84 67 122 88 22 9
O Holy -----	114 38 2 75 95 16
P Gleaned -----	39 109 72 58 70
Q Wandered around -----	91 61 121 87 3 12
R To test by evidence -----	27 99 112 23 92
S To make a bid, as a price --	86 59 73 28 107
T Ten cent pieces -----	55 100 51 31 79
U The forward part of anything -----	66 71 96 20 102
V To pardon -----	36 50 4 123 52 97 1

(Solution on page 30)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	
44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	
	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106
	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117
118	119	120	121	122	123	124				





Photo by erb

## A Library

After their vacation trip to the Southwest, this family is interested in their latest volume, "Desert Animals."

Want an up-to-date library of your very own? Here is an easy, economical method of acquiring one that the entire family can enjoy making. Most important of all is the happiness to be derived in the years to come from the use of this constructive project.

Three-year-old Bobbie, 80-year-old Grandfather, 12-year-old Sally, 14-year-old Jimmie, and, of course, Mother and Father can join in. You do not need any expensive equipment. Most of the items needed are already in the home. The few things that you do not have can be picked up at the five-and-ten-cent store or the corner drugstore.

Mucilage, gummed reinforcements, gummed index tabs, and several pairs of scissors are needed. You can start with the daily papers and the Sunday supplements. If you do not have current issues of magazines that you wish to cut up, shop at secondhand bookstores. You can purchase them for five cents each, or several for five or ten cents, depending on their age and the kind of magazine.

Next, you put on your thinking cap and call the family into a conference and decide at this time what the important subjects are that you, as a family, are interested in and want to know more about.

"Outer Space"? Good! From two daily papers purchased for twenty cents and a magazine bought for another five cents in a secondhand bookstore, I gleaned the following:

What Is Outer Space?  
How Is the Air Fixed Around the Earth?  
Comet May "Hit" Earth  
Arend-Roland's Comet Seen  
Once in a Lifetime  
Astronomers Test Satellite Watch  
Celestial Fireworks

All of this information was in two dailies bought for twenty cents. In the five-cent magazine, I discovered a gold mine, "The World in Outer Space." This article, containing colored pictures of our solar system and several clear maps, was truly a find. Now, when the material for the day is gathered, the actual clipping can begin.

Next, the classifying of all material will be up to you. Do you want this to be truly scientific? A few items will have to be dropped from the "Outer Space" scrapbook, and placed in a second book which will cover fields of allied subjects. After the decision is made, the actual pasting is begun. It is better to fill the entire book before permanent indexing is

started; but reinforcements should be put in at the start. This is especially necessary when the pages are held together by a string. If the pages are solidly attached in the book, these reinforcements will not be needed. It is remarkable how fast the scrapbooks fill, once you really start.

Soon not a member of the family will think of reading the newspaper or a magazine without the scissors. All will become more alert from reading with a purpose. The rewards of this hobby are lasting and educational. Most of the information garnered today is by men well known in their particular field and is written for today's reading. Ten years from now you will not be able to purchase this information at any price. How many times have you remembered reading something that you wished you had saved?

Remember that after the reading the proper classifying is just as important. What is the use of reading and clipping, if you do not know exactly what you have and where to find it? Then, of course, comes the placing of the item in your scrapbook—and the indexing.

In the indexing it is better to use subject headings. The alphabetical listings will become much too long and confused. Under

# on a Shoestring

by Kathaleen May Fong

"Space" you might put such items as "Air," "Air Travel," and such titles, depending, of course, on the subjects in which the family is most interested.

It is better at first to start with not more than three subjects that are nearest your heart. A notebook library started in conjunction with your scrapbook library is done in much the same way. Instead of pasting, you copy directly from a book, clearly and plainly. Whatever the source of your information, by all means, do put down the name of the book, the name of the author, publisher, and date of publication. Some day, you may have the money to spare and will want to purchase the book from which you got information. If you fail to put down the source, in a year or so you will find yourself wondering where on earth you got this material. In your notebooks, as in your scrapbooks, keep one book for each subject—and keep them well indexed and reinforced. A library, to be enjoyed, is going to be used considerably. A library, not used, is not any good, whether it is in the home or in a public building.

Clippings on the chosen subjects can also be pasted in your notebooks. Wonderful up-to-date material about political and historical matter can be found in issues of

many of the news weeklies.

Recently, *Life* had a series of religious pictures that money can not buy in the years to come. If you can pick up some issues of this magazine containing these pictures, it will be worth your time and money to do so.

In your notebook library, do place a label on the back of each book, so that when you stand it up in a bookcase, you can read the subject without pulling out all of the other volumes. As with scrapbooks, it is truly amazing how fast the notebooks grow as the information expands. If the label is covered with cellophane tape, it will last for years, and can be easily peeled off when you wish to replace it. One note of caution, however: It is very easy to paste your items in, but almost impossible to pry them loose without destroying them.

As you get bolder and braver and wiser, you can start cataloging your information on cards as is done in libraries. If you decide to catalogue, take index cards, 3 x 5, and place the name of the author of the article or the source of the item first. For example:

ADAMS, CHARLES

Study and character of comets and their behavior in outer space.

Publisher, name of magazine, or

newspaper, year of information published.

If you crave deeper water, try cross-indexing. This time, your second card will read as follows:

COMETS, CHARACTER, AND BEHAVIOR  
by Charles Adams, name of  
magazine, date of publication, or  
publisher of book.

Do you still want books, but find that the money is not available? Then get out the proverbial piggy bank, decide never to spend a dime that is given to you in change, and keep the dimes for a year. A friend of mine purchased a *Book of Knowledge* set for her young son in that way. Never, never open your bank until the time specified by you when you started it.

It is absolutely amazing, once you begin your library, how books and information will come to you. Neighbors will "be tired" of certain books, and once they know of your hobby, will turn their books over to you. Relatives will send them to you on birthdays, if you hint gently just what sort of information you wish. Friends will clip things from the papers, thinking that the information may be exactly what you need.

This is a hobby that grows, educates, and brings many worthwhile friends into your home. They will start a library of their own. You can exchange information and clippings, much as youngsters trade stamps.

My own youngster started an animal scrapbook eight years ago. Pictures have been traded and added to it as the years have gone by. It is very thick and somewhat worn out—but still loved and cherished because she made it. It is her very own book and has been so labeled by her.

Libraries, homes for books, started back many long years before Benjamin Franklin worked so hard and long to establish the first library in Philadelphia. Several years ago more than 20 thousand clay tablets that dated back 2,500 years ago to the time of Ninevah were dug up. This was a library of ancient times.

Cherish your library. It is for you and your family to enjoy every day of the year.



# Such Sweet Sorrow

by Katherine Aldrich Murdoch

They took each step with slow reluctance, for on this very road they must part—he, to go on into the unknown, the great, unexplored way ahead, she, to turn back home and there to wait with heavy heart and straining eyes for his returning.

He kicked halfheartedly at the deep pools of red and gold autumn leaves at his feet.

They had reached the fallen log now, the fallen log under the big maple tree. This was the place of parting! Here the inevitable must have its way!

He sat down and pulled her to him.

"Oh, Peg!" he whispered hoarsely.

Together they looked at the country road, arched above with flaming maples, like a street, banner-decorated, awaiting the passing of a hero. It rose slightly, then dipped down and ran out of sight.

He put his cheek down against hers fiercely, trying in this short

second to gather all the sweetness, the gaiety, the dearness of their devotion into one precious fragment to keep and to cherish.

"It will be so long," he whispered again, his lips against her face. She looked up, and her brown eyes were brimming with silent sorrow.

A small crying sound escaped her as he rose and slowly took up his bag, from the place where he had set it on the ground.

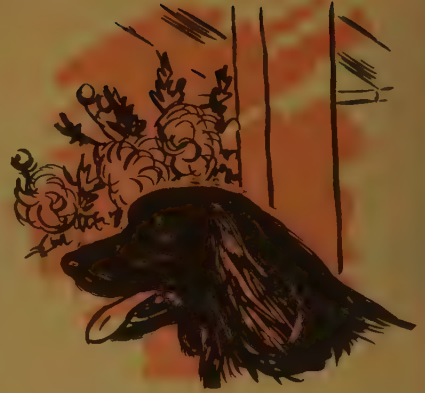
She stood in a sort of frozen stillness as he took a few steps, turned and waved, paused, and then trudged determinedly on.

He reached the crest of the hill. An unseen, masculine voice called out to him from over the hill.

"Hurry up! Will you? We'll never make it on time." He turned and waved, and the sudden, fitful September wind flung back to her, with painful clarity, his words.

"Good-by, Peg! Good-by! Good-by!"

He was gone.



She stood uncertainly, the feeling of lostness sweeping over her anew. Again, a small sound escaped her as she turned and went toward home. She could see his mother standing on the porch, twisting her apron and tears showing unashamedly in her anxious eyes.

She went up on the porch slowly—preparing herself for the miniature eternity that he would be gone. Yes, it would be a miniature eternity. For he had gone to his first day of school; and Peg, his Irish Setter, lay down disconsolately to watch for her young master's returning.

## Study Guide

(Continued from page 24)

and a challenge to us as Christian witnesses!

7. Has our family discovered a particularly helpful and successful way of making church membership meaningful at home that we would be willing to share with the group?

### Resources

Trueblood, Elton and Pauline, *The Recovery of Family Life*, published by Harper.

Maynard, Donald More, *Your Home Can Be Christian*, published by Abingdon. The study guide for this book, by the author of this month's study article and his wife, may be helpful. It is available at 50 cents from the American Baptist Dept. of Adult and Family Life, Phila.

Blankenship, Lois, "Church and Home in Partnership" (a pamphlet, 15 cents), Dept. of Children's Work, The American Baptist Convention, Phila.

Hanson, Joseph John, "Your Church and Christian Family Life" (pamphlet, 20 cents), Dept. of Adult and Family Life, The American Baptist Convention, Phila.

Lentz, Richard E., *Christian Worship by Families*, Bethany Press. 75 cents.

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"It's the only way I can play and baby-sit at the same time."



# Family Counselor

**Q.** WE ARE young parents with a daughter two and one-half years and a son, age three months.

This is our problem. Our daughter has attended Sunday school regularly since she was three weeks old, always looking forward to each Sunday until recently. However, she balks at going into the nursery and won't stay in the three-year-old class now. Insofar as we can find out nothing extraordinary has happened in her class that might cause a change of attitude. Also, in the last few months she has begun to throw tantrums and to be very stubborn in her way. We have spanked her, tried kindness, put her to bed when she misbehaves—all to no avail. Last, she will not go to sleep by herself. Always, one of us must lie down with her. Yet with all these things I've pointed out, she has always been fast to catch on to things. She began walking at eight months, started to speak and sing well early, and has progressed rapidly in general, except the growth of her hair which has been extremely slow and noticeable. Your help and guidance in any way will be earnestly and sincerely appreciated.

**A.** ORDINARILY, when a child who has been going to Sunday school suddenly says she doesn't want to go, a parent can quietly remark that she understands how the child feels, that in fact sometimes she herself doesn't want to go, but that of course, "We go whether we feel like it or not and many times find after we get there

we are happy we went." Then, off to school they go.

At other times, however, it is wise to let a balky child stay home. If the family is in the habit of going, the child is likely soon to want to return. In your case, however, it may be that your daughter doesn't want to go because she is a bit jealous of her younger brother and wants to stay home with her mother. If this is true, let her stay home for a while. In fact, this entire situation suggests that her father and mother need to give her a bit more personal attention than you have been doing since the baby came.

This feeling of bewilderment because of the presence of a baby in the home may also be a factor in the tantrums and stubbornness. It seems to her the baby is getting most of the attention of her parents and the only way she can get attention is by throwing a tantrum or by being stubborn. Make certain when she is having a tantrum

that she cannot hurt herself, and then more or less ignore it. Try to avoid situations, too, that give her a chance to be stubborn. Fortunately, many of these behavior patterns will pass as she gets older.

The desire to have one of you lie down with her when she goes to bed is another possible indication of her uncertainty regarding your love since the baby has come. Your presence as she goes to sleep is more or less reassuring to her. Be patient and understanding, therefore, because of her desire for your presence. However, after having had a period of fellowship with her before going to bed, and perhaps staying with her for just a few minutes, let her know that you will be nearby as she goes to sleep, but that you have some reading or work to do in another room. She may not let you go immediately but gradually, if you give her plenty of affection and love, she should be willing to go to sleep by herself.

*Daniel M. Maynard*



## Surprise for Sandra

(Continued from page 21)

and complained and made it very unpleasant here for me, but you never said a word, and you tried never to let me see you looking sad. You have earned all the country I could get for you."

Sandra threw her arms around her dad. "I have the best Dad and Mother in the whole world," she said. "I'll never be sad about living in the city again."



## Are You a Right Number?

(Continued from page 11)

One of the young girls at our church has started to business college. She has been taught how to place a telephone call. She told me that the procedure that they learn is to begin with "Hello, this is Jane Vickers. I'd like to speak to Miss Dedrickson concerning the new office equipment."

This might sound rather formal at first; but when it's translated into an everyday call from my home to yours, it might sound like this: "Hello, this is Mary. May I please speak to Jane about the fellowship dinner on Wednesday night."

Simple, isn't it? Try it and see what a change it will make in your phoning.

*Do you leave a message when necessary?*

My young sister, Betty Jo, lives in a college dormitory. Each of the school girls has to take telephone duty once a week. Whenever there is a call for a girl who is not in the dorm at the time, the caller is always asked to leave a message. If there is no message, then at least the name of the person who called and the time of the call is noted on a slip of paper and given to the girl when she returns.

There is nothing more frustrating than to return home and be told, "Someone called, but there was no message, and he didn't leave his name." How much more considerate it is to save your friends the agony of wondering who in the world it was who called.

*How do you rate?*

Perhaps you will want to tack this reminder up near your phone for the whole family. These are only five simple hints; but if you can score 100 per cent on all points, then you will be a joy on the other end of any line.

## Halloween Surprise

(Continued from page 21)

asked Mother about Tabby. She put her head out the back door and called, but no Tabby came.

The time after refreshments came. Since Esther did not have any Tabby or any surprise, the children were getting ready to go home. Just then, Father, who had been down town all day with the car, drove up. He came in at the front door carrying a box very carefully.

"Just look what has been in my car all day," he said.

He set the box down. Esther cried, "Tabby!"

Sure enough, curled up in the box was Tabby. With her were six kittens just as black as she was.

The children gathered around the box. "Oh, I want one, I want one," they cried.

Esther could not take Tabby away from her babies to rub her to make the sparks fly; but Tabby had added something very special to the Halloween party after all!

## The Heart Decides

(Continued from page 9)

Alison lifted the receiver. "It's the office," she said to Reg.

He went to the telephone. They heard him say, "Why, yes, Fred. It's through, eh?" He turned to wink at Alison. His lips soundlessly formed the words, "The promotion's official."

Then a look of incredulity crossed his face, and he swung back to the telephone. "What was that, Fred?"

A hush of expectancy filled the room. Reg gasped. "But you told me Edmonton!"

Another silence, and then he shouted. "Of course I want to go! Consider me practically there!"

He hung up and whipped around, grinning broadly. "Yippee! Alison, start packing! You, too, Mother! We're going to need a two-family house again! I'm not slated for Edmonton, but for the new branch opening in Texas!"

The significance of his words reached Alison; but through her mind echoed other, more meaningful words. She could still hear Reg saying:

"If we let our hearts decide, we'll never have any regrets."

*Getting Gift Minded?*

**HEARTHSTONE**  
is for everybody

## To Brighten the Life of a Shut-In

(Continued from page 10)

ical fish. A shut-in child would probably get much enjoyment from these gifts, but they might be a source of annoyance to an older shut-in.

The same consideration should be exercised in the selection of paintings and other works of art. Some people are very fond of such things, while others prefer unadorned walls. Giving a gift that is unwanted will cause embarrassment both for you and for the recipient.

A gift which brings a lift to the spirits of nearly all women shut-ins is a shampoo, hair set, and facial massage by a professional beauty operator. Maybe you are clever enough to do the job yourself.

Brightening the life of a shut-in may not always be an easy task; but it is one well worth cultivating, and will bring heartwarming rewards to the giver as well as to the recipient. Try it! You'll be glad you did!

## Biblegram Solution

(Biblegram on page 25)

**SOLUTION:** "Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17)

### The Words

A Foggy  
B Broom  
C Cheese  
D Doodle  
E Highway  
F Coronet  
G Caught  
H Martha  
I Within  
J Twist  
K Favor  
L Tenth  
M Women  
N Wanted  
O Divine  
P Shone  
Q Roamed  
R Prove  
S Offer  
T Dimes  
U Front  
V Forgive





## BOOKS for the hearthside

### For Adults

Adults looking for brief, helpful discussions of important religious problems will find them in 12 more Reflection Books (Association Press, New York. 1957 and 1958, 128 pages, 50 cents each). **The Unfolding Drama of the Bible**, by Bernhard W. Anderson is a slight revision of an earlier book that describes the Bible as the drama of God's search for man. It is a study book of eight sessions that adults will find useful for personal reading. **What the Christian Hopes for in Society**, edited by Wayne H. Cowan is a reprint of eight articles appearing in *Christianity and Crisis* magazine on some of the perplexing problems of modern society in the light of the Christian faith. Typical of the material is the chapter on "Prophets and Politics." **Sex and the Christian Life**, by Seward Hiltner presents an examination of the sex life and conduct of man on the basis of the Biblical view with the help of the personality sciences. His chapter on "A Modern Christian View" of sex deserves much thought by the reader. **God and the Day's Work**, by Robert L. Calhoun, discusses vigorously and honestly the problem of Christian vocation in an un-Christian world. He emphasizes the importance of transforming all work into Christian vocation. **What Archeology Says About the Bible**, by Albert N. Williams, has much of the interest of a modern "whodunit." It introduces the uninitiated into some of the mysteries and clues of archeological discoveries and their relation to Biblical accounts. It will whet your appetite for more. **The Promise of Prayer**,

by John L. Casteel, is a brief rewriting of a larger book, *Rediscovering Prayer*. It is a discussion of some practical steps to take in the practice of prayer which makes it something more than a gimmick for successful, prosperous living. **Denominations—How We Got Them**, by Stanley I. Stuber, takes you on a quick tour through the history of the church and churches. It begins with the early church, leads you through the decline and reformation, and then summarizes each of the leading denominational bodies. It designates Baptist churches as churches of freedom and the Christian Church as the church of unity. **Ten Makers of Modern Protestant Thought**, edited by George L. Hunt, gives you thumbnail sketches of ten great molders of Protestant ideas. Three of the ten are no longer living; the remainder are still active. They are Barth, Brunner, Buber, Bultmann, Kierkegaard, Niebuhr, Rauschenbusch, Schweitzer, Temple, and Tillich. **Modern Man Looks at the Bible**, by William Neil, opens your mind to the uniqueness, the relevance, and the modern quality of the Bible. This is a revision of his earlier book, *The Plain Man Looks at the Bible*. **The Bible When You Need It Most**, by T. Otto Nall, is a book of meditations on selected Bible passages. It will bring some of the courage, encouragement, inspiration, and challenge of the Bible to meet you at specific points of need in your life. It is a good gift for many of your friends in life's mingled experiences. **Questions and Answers on Religion**, by Jack Finegan, does just what its title says, provides answers to some of the universal questions on God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, the church, and immortality. **Religion and Health**, edited by Simon Doniger, is a symposium on the relation between health of body and mind and Christian faith. Here is a careful assaying of the problem of spiritual healing that is much needed in a day of quite extravagant claims in this field.

### For Children

Children interested in nature will enjoy the latest nature book by Margaret Waring Buck, **Pets from the Pond** (Abingdon Press, 1958. 72 pages. \$3.00). The book discusses the kind of fresh-water creatures that can become pets, how to catch them, how to feed and care for them, specifications for constructing and maintaining an aquarium, and how to observe life cycles in the aquarium. Miss Buck's beautiful line drawings, detailed and accurate, and her concise text are the result of careful study and broad experience. Children of all ages, and adults, too, interested in the living things found in and around ponds and streams, will enjoy and profit from reading and studying this book.

Boys and girls eight to twelve who like animals will enjoy **The Small Circus**, by Elisabeth Hubbard Lansing (Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1957. 150 pages. \$2.50.) This is an intimate family story of Papa, who owned the Small Circus, of brothers Tom and Joe who really made the circus go, of Signora Cantelli who tamed the lion, of Mama who kept the temperamental Signora happy, and of Niki who missed having a real home of her own. Niki felt secure in her part of the trailer where her family lived. She felt at home with all the animals in the Small Circus. She did get tired of moving about from place to place, and she longed for friends her own age. The exciting events that led to her finding a kindred spirit, and a real home, make a good story. The line drawings by Beth and Joe Krush will add to one's pleasure in the story.



# OVER THE BACK FENCE

## Now We Are Nine!

October brings us to the ninth birthday of The Magazine for the Christian Home, *Hearthstone*. It has been a wonderful privilege to prepare each issue. It is our prayer that the thousands of homes into which it has gone through these past nine years have found that it has to some degree fulfilled its high purpose.

During these years there has been a growing recognition of the importance of the home to the whole program of the church. Not only is the home necessary as the source from which the church constituency comes; it is also the first meeting ground between the ideals and spirit of the Christian faith and the practical day-by-day living of every person. Unless the home makes every effort to carry out in daily life the teachings of the Christian faith, the work which the church endeavors to do is greatly handicapped or made totally ineffective.

It is this fact which called *Hearthstone* into existence and which makes its function so important both to the home and to the church. *Hearthstone* is not just another magazine to compete with the appeals of a multitude of other magazines which clamour for the attention of the family. *It is the only magazine published that has as its sole purpose the guidance of Christian family living among the homes of American Baptist and Disciples of Christ churches!*

As *Hearthstone* faces the future it renews its dedication to its supreme task, the nurture of the home in the Christian faith.

## The Fallacy of the Average

Whatever one may feel about the old adage, "Figures do not lie," and the rejoinder, "No, but

liars do figure," figures are interesting. This is borne out by the recent release of the figures which give the summary of incomes for various groups in our population during 1957. A study of these statistics also reveals the pertinence of the heading for this editorial.

The average income for each of our 53½ million families and unattached adults was \$6,130, the highest on record. A study of the figures released by the Department of Commerce shows a number of ways in which this record income is misleading.

Note first of all that about 62 per cent of all American families received an annual income of less than \$6,000 during 1957. This indicates that prosperity was less rosy for a majority of our population than for a minority. Further, 37 per cent of the families of the U.S. lived on incomes of less than \$4,000, which is much below the figure established a few years ago as the amount needed to sustain a decent minimum standard of living.

Another interesting fact: those having an annual income of \$15,000 or more, including from the well-to-do to the very-rich, received 18 per cent of the total expendable income. This compares to 12 per cent which this same group received in 1947. This group contains only 2.2 million families. Among other things this means that 96 per cent of our families have less total expendable income in 1957 than in 1947, 82 per cent compared to 88 per cent. Is this somewhat responsible for the recession of 1958?

The 62 per cent of our population mentioned above is made up of the majority of our workers' and farm families. Here is the major market for the goods produced by our industrial genius. Here is the basis for a growing American economy. Another question: Can this group, controlling only 25 per cent of our nation's expendable income, be responsible for an inflation which has continued in spite of recession?

What do you think of these figures?



# Poetry Page

## Temptation

Clouds are so restful—they do not care  
If winter clothes are hung out to air;  
And what does it matter to waving pines  
If anyone breakfasts or anyone dines?  
The waves that dance on the sand's smooth floor  
Would think washing dishes an awful bore;  
And the rooms that need cleaning (or so think I)  
The wind, with a whistle, would just pass by,  
And the clouds and the trees and the wind and sea  
All whisper this tempting thought to me:  
"Oh, what is the use of indoor fuss  
"When all that really matters is us!"

by Ina S. Stovall

## Pre-School Children Read

The pre-school children read now  
An ample store of books:  
Their fathers', mothers', neighbors'  
Most unsuspecting looks.  
And they can read correctly  
Each frown and smile and wink;  
And if you don't believe it,  
You'd better pause and think.

by Chauncey R. Piety

## Why Is It?

When I was a child, I would become riled  
At taking my afternoon naps.  
" 'Tis foolish, Mom, dear," I'd say with a sneer.  
"This business is strictly for saps."  
The years have gone by. I heave a great sigh.  
I get mighty weary at 4.  
Now everyone knows I welcome repose.  
But—my afternoon naps are no more.

by Sue Wollam

## When Four Are Always One

My teacher taught us to believe  
That one is always one,  
That two add one are three,  
And three add one are four.  
But yesterday, at school, I said,  
That four is sometimes one.  
My teacher looked at me, surprised, and said,  
"Why, John, you know that four is never one."  
But I just smiled, excused myself, and said,  
"At our house, four is always one,  
You see, there's Sis and me  
We're two—but really one.  
Then Dad and Mom, who always say  
They're one—and that  
My Sis and me who're one  
And they are one—  
So every time, you count that way,  
You get the sum of—  
Four that's only one."

by Mazelle Wildes Thomas





# A Treasury of New Books

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## For Children . . .

**ALL THROUGH THE YEAR** by *Grace McGavran* with illustrations by *Ruth Rogers*. Devotional readings for boys and girls from ages 8 to 12 based on the seasons of the year. Special section for holidays and other significant days. 10A319, \$2.50

**GENERAL JIM** by *Hazel H. Davis* with illustrations by *R. R. Theibert*. The story of James A. Garfield and his rise from obscure poverty in a pioneer log cabin in Ohio to become a great general and U. S. President. For ages 10 up. 10G503, \$3.00

## For Ministers and Laymen . . .

**GIFT OF LIFE** by *Wesley P. Ford*. Forty deeply Bible-centered devotions for both men and women. Each opens with a Scripture passage, includes a hymn suggestion, meditation, and closes with a prayer. Special section of devotions for holidays and a section for the bereaved. 10G502, \$1.75

**THE CHRISTIAN LAYMAN AND HIS CHURCH** by *Mark Rutherford*. A penetrating evaluation of the place and responsibilities of today's layman. History of laymen in the church, their functions and roles today, and their rewards. Makes a strong plea for layman to revitalize Christianity. 10C650, \$1.25

**PRAYER IN THE MARKET PLACE** edited by *John W. Harms*. For the minister or layman who is called upon to speak before secular groups. Reviews function of public prayer, its usefulness, and motivation; examines the role of the chaplain, and makes suggestions to improve prayers. More than half the book is given to "sample" prayers. 10P529, \$1.75

**CHRISTIAN UNITY IN NORTH AMERICA: A Symposium** edited by *J. Robert Nelson*. A dramatic presentation of the views of eighteen contemporary Christian theologians on various aspects of Christian unity. Each article is by a prominent leader and most have previously appeared in leading religious periodicals. 10C627, \$3.50

**HOW TO CONDUCT RELIGIOUS RADIO PROGRAMS** by *James E. Kimsey*. The basic problems of the radio ministry are here presented and solutions offered that will aid the minister in making use of the great radio potential. Techniques, mechanics, script preparation, and delivery discussed. 10H387, \$1.00

**HOW TO REACH GROUP DECISIONS** by *Lambert J. Case*. Practical suggestions and principles for the successful attainment of group decisions. Subjects include meeting procedures, "brain storming," function of chairman and officers, etc. For either church or secular situation. 10H388, \$1.00

**HOW TO BUILD A CHURCH CHOIR** by *Charles H. Heaton*. An introduction to the techniques of building and operating a church choir. Analyzes purpose, rules, and procedures of choir groups and makes valuable suggestions for recruiting and holding members. 10H386, \$1.00

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